Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /132 W
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EO 11652: NA TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJ: DISC AND RELATED TAX PRACTICES

REF: STATE 3925

1. GATT SECRETARIAT HAS AS YET RECEIVED NO REQUEST TO PLACE PANEL DECISIONS ON SUBJECT PRACTICES ON NEXT GATT COUNCIL AGENDA. NO COUNCIL IS YET FIRMLY SCHEDULED. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT CONSIDERATION OF PANEL REPORTS HAS BEEN DEFERRED UNTIL SOME FUTURE COUNCIL; THUS IT IS NOT FOREGONE CONCLUSIONS THAT MATTER WILL EVEN ARISE AT THE VERY NEXT COUNCIL. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT OTHERS ARE NOT PRESSING FOR EARLY GATT COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS AND THAT THERE IS A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO GIVE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION A CHANCE TO MAKE UP ITS MIND. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS PRESS ARTICLES IN INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE AND OTHER EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS SUGGESTING CARTER ADMINISTRATION INTENDED ELIMINATE DISC, THUS ENCOURAGING SUCH ATTITUDE.

2. WASHINGTON SHOULD BE AWARE THAT WHENEVER GATT COUNCIL DOES CONSIDER THE FOUR PANEL REPORTS BEYOND THE PRELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIMINARY TAKING-NOTE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED, MORE THAN ADOPTION OF REPORTS IS AT STAKE. UNDER PROVISIONS ART. XXIII:2, COUNCIL IS CALLED UPON TO MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS OR MAKE A RULING AS APPROPRIATE. REGARDLESS OF VIEWS OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES AFFECTED, CP'S MAY WISH TO CALL FOR ABOLITION OF THE TAX PRACTICES OR EVEN AUTHORIZE RETAILATORY WITHDRWAALS. REGARDLESS OF WHAT WE MAY WORK OUT WITH FRANCE,

BELGIUM, AND NETHERLANDS--AND EC AS PARTY TO DISC COMPLAINT--MOTIVES OF SUCH COUNTRIES AS CANADA MAY BE QUITE DIFFERENT.

3. IN VIEW OF PRECEDING CONSIDERATIONS, WE ARE DEFERRING ACTION UNTIL WE RECEIVE FURTHER GUIDANCE. CATTO

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